

Amendments to Claims

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of claims:

Claims 1-15. (cancelled)

Claim 16. (currently amended): An isolated polynucleotide comprising:
(a) a nucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide having cysteine synthase ~~cysteine-γ-synthase~~ activity, wherein the polypeptide has an amino acid sequence of at least 90% sequence identity, based on the Clustal method of alignment, when compared to SEQ ID NO:31, or
(b) the full-length complement of the nucleotide sequence of (a).

Claim 17. (previously presented): The polynucleotide of Claim 16, wherein the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide has at least 95% sequence identity, based on the Clustal method of alignment, when compared to SEQ ID NO:31.

Claim 18. (previously presented): The polynucleotide of Claim 16, wherein the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide comprises SEQ ID NO:31.

Claim 19. (previously presented): The polynucleotide of Claim 16 wherein the nucleotide sequence comprises SEQ ID NO:30.

Claim 20. (previously presented): A vector comprising the polynucleotide of Claim 16.

Claim 21. (previously presented): A recombinant DNA construct comprising the polynucleotide of Claim 16 operably linked to at least one regulatory sequence.

Claim 22. (previously presented): A method for transforming a cell, comprising transforming a cell with the polynucleotide of Claim 16.

Claim 23. (previously presented): A cell comprising the recombinant DNA construct of Claim 21.

Claim 24. (previously presented): A plant comprising the recombinant DNA construct of Claim 21.

Claim 25. (previously presented): A seed comprising the recombinant DNA construct of Claim 21.

Claim 26. (withdrawn): A method of selecting an isolated polynucleotide that affects the level of expression of a polypeptide in a plant cell, the method comprising the steps of:

- (a) constructing the isolated polynucleotide of Claim 16;
- (b) introducing the isolated polynucleotide into the plant cell;
- (c) measuring the level of the polypeptide of Claim 16 in the plant cell containing the polynucleotide; and
- (d) comparing the level of the polypeptide in the plant cell containing the isolated polynucleotide with the level of the polypeptide in a plant cell that does not contain the polynucleotide.